Recommendation of Arjun Sen Gupta's Committee

†196. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee was constituted by Government under the Chairmanship of Arjun Sen Gupta for getting suggestion to create large number of employment opportunities in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the details of responsibilities assigned to the committee and by when the Committee is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government constituted the National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganised/Informal Sector under the chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sen Gupta on 20.9.2004. The terms of reference assigned to the Commission are as follows:—

(i) Review of the status of unorganized/informal sector in India including the nature of enterprises, their size, spread and scope, and magnitude of employment;

(ii) Identify constraints faced by small enterprises with regard to freedom of carrying out the enterprise, access to raw materials, finance, skills, entrepreneurship development, infrastructure, technology and markets and suggest measures to provide institutional support and linkages to facilitate easy access to them;

(iii) Suggest the legal and policy environment that should govern the informal/unorganized sector for growth, employment, exports and promotion;

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(iv) Examine the range of existing programmes that relate to employment generation in the informal/unorganized sector and suggest improvement for their redesign;

(v) Identify innovative legal and financing instruments to promote the growth of the informal sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(vi) Review the existing arrangements for estimating employment and unemployment in the informal sector, and examine why the rate of growth in employment has stagnated in the 1990s;

(vii) Suggest elements of an employment strategy focusing on the informal sector;

(viii) Review Indian Labour laws, consistent with labour rights, and with the requirements of expanding growth of industry and services, particularly in the informal sector, and improving productivity and competitiveness; and

(ix) Review the social security system available for Labour in the informal sector, and make recommendations for expanding their coverage.

The Commission has been given a term of three years with effect from 20.9.2004 and has to submit its final report by that date.

Rehabilitation of Child Labourers working in Hazardous Industries

197. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of child labourers in the country which are in main occupation/industries for their employment;

(b) how many of above are engaged in hazardous industries;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government for improving the conditions of children rescued from hazardous employment in the light of directions of the Supreme Court of India in the M.C. Mehta Vs. State of Tamil Nadu (1997);

(d) the total number of child labourers thus rescued and rehabilitated, in the country, during last five years;

(e) the steps Government are taking to strictly implement the Labour Laws to prevent employment of children in various industries and establishments in the country; and

(f) under law could a child labourer be termed as 'forced labour* or 'bonded labour'?